been announced by the potential States for power generated from these projects.

Conducting exhibitions for popularising the Non-Conventional Energy Sources

4278. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all exhibitions are conducted only through the assistance of various Non-Conventional Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh's or State Government agencies;

(b) if, so the reasons for such total dependence on the State machinery;

(c) whether it is a fact that many State Government agencies are not qualified to hold good and attractive exhibitions to popularise non-conventional energy; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by Government to find alternate ways to have small exhibitions all over the country for popularising non-conventional energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) provides financial support to the Non-Conventional Energy Develoment Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (NEDCAP) and the other State Nodal Agencies for organizing exhibitions on non-conventional energy devices and systems in their respective States, so that the displays, and necessary information including that of the State Govt. programmes on non-conventional energy could be provided to the visitors in the regional/local languages. Besides, for international exhibitions; MNES provides partial support to the organizers for meeting the rent of bare space taken by the participating industries, NGOs and Industrial Association.

(c) and (d) The State Nodal Agencies for Renewable Energy have adequate expert manpower to organize good exhibitions. Some of these agencies have also received the awards for exhibitions in the past.

Development of fuel cell energy sources

4279. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether research into development of fuel cell energy sources as

alternative to hydro-carbon fuels for motor transport is being conducted in the country;

(b) if so, the institutions where such research is being conducted and funds allotted for such research;

(c) the extent of progress achieved till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Centre for Energy Research, Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) Science Foundation, Chennai has carried out a research and development project during 1998-2000 on this subject with the support of this Ministry. The total sanctioned outlay for this project was Rs. 19.35 lakhs, out of which the Ministry provided a grant of Rs. 14.35 lakhs to this organization.

(c) and (d) The project was successfully completed. A vehicle powered by fuel cell-battery hybrid system was developed and demonstrated as part of this project. This vehicle has logged more than 2000 kilometres of operation.

Declaring November 1st as General Holiday

4280. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that November 1st every year is being celebrated as Kannada Rajyothsava Day throughout Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring November 1st as General Holiday for all Central Government Offices throughout Karnataka in 2003; and

(c) to facilitate Kannadigas working in Central Government Offices to celebrate this historic occasion, will the Government declare November 1st, 2003 as General Holiday for all Central Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government Administrative Offices observe upto 17 holidays in a year as per the prescribed policy. In view of the ceiling on